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Original Research Article

The Position of Urban Agriculture in Landscape Architecture*

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Abstract | Urban agriculture represents a multifaceted domain of inquiry and practice that intersects with landscape architecture and a broad spectrum of academic disciplines. Despite its global recognition for its critical importance, urban agriculture has not garnered significant scholarly attention within the discipline of landscape architecture in Iran. This situation necessitates a thorough examination of its current standing within this field in Iran. The primary aim of this investigation is to clarify the role of urban agriculture within the landscape architecture domain in Iran, scrutinizing it from both research-oriented and professional viewpoints. The purpose is to delineate prospective avenues for future research and practice, while also underscoring vital yet inadequately explored facets within this area. The approach adopted for this inquiry is review-analytical. It systematically identifies and categorizes the existing literature, including papers, books, theses, reports, research institutions, and international projects about urban agriculture, with a particular focus on contributions made by landscape architects and prominent researchers in the field. Data collection was conducted through exhaustive searches of academic databases and global online resources. Although research on urban agriculture within the realm of landscape architecture has exhibited considerable international advancement, as evidenced by a robust body of literature comprising papers, books, theses, and research reports authored by specialists in the field, such research remains relatively scarce in Iran. From a professional standpoint, while urban agriculture has cultivated a substantial international presence within landscape architecture across various sectors, its status in Iran is markedly underdeveloped. This underdevelopment can be partially attributed to distinctive interpretations of the landscape approach prevalent within the discipline. To mitigate this issue, it is imperative to harness the experiences of leading nations while concurrently leveraging Iran's internal capacities. This encompasses enhancing research and academic support, including encouraging students and universities to engage in landscape architecture programs, fortifying the professional job market, and elevating awareness among organizations and executive authorities. Such coordinated initiatives can engender an environment that is favorable to the advancement of urban agriculture within the landscape architecture discipline in Iran.

Keywords | *Urban Agriculture, Landscape Architecture, Productive Landscape, Edible Landscape.*

Introduction| The history of urban agriculture, deeply rooted in cities and exemplified by Persian gardens, has seen a resurgence of interest and scholarly discourse over the past two decades (Zeunert, 2018, 160). This concept overlaps significantly with other notions such as "edible landscapes" and "productive landscapes"(Philips, 2013, 49), though its goals diverge markedly between the Global North and Global South. In the Global North, urban agriculture is characterized as a socio-environmental intervention involving the cultivation, processing, and distribution of food and non-food products through intensive farming practices within and around urban

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areas, including public spaces. Conversely, in the Global South, it is primarily framed as a tool to address systemic challenges such as poverty, food insecurity, gender inequality, and diminishing livelihood opportunities in urban economies (Tornaghi, 2014, 251). These divergent priorities are reflected in the emphases of researchers and institutions. For example, Smit et al. (1996, 6) and Mougeot (2000) argue that urban agriculture is economically necessary for food security. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) highlights its crucial role in strengthening food production systems (Urban, 2001). Meanwhile, researchers from the Global North, including Philips (2013), Bohn & Viljoen (2017), Nordahl (2014), Zeunert & Court (2023) and Viljoen & Bohn (2014) emphasize the socio-environmental advantages using case studies focusing on public space integration (Table 1).

Table 1. Urban agriculture goals in the context of the global North and South. Source: Authors.

Global context	Name of scholar/ scholars	The goal of urban agriculture
North	Zeunert, 2018 Viljoen & Bohn, 2014 Philips, 2013 Nordahl, 2014	Improving environmental and social conditions
South	Smit et al., 1996 Mougeot, 2000 Urban, 2001	Preventing vulnerability and growing poverty, Persistent food insecurity, Declining livelihood opportunities, and Gender inequality in contemporary urban economies

While urban agriculture has been examined across disciplines such as landscape architecture, urban design, environmental studies, and geography (Zeunert, 2018, 172), its practical implementation remains under-prioritized by urban planners and designers (Ibid.,169). Landscape architecture, as an interdisciplinary field prioritizing applied knowledge over theoretical production (Brink et al., 2016, 68), has emerged as a key domain for its exploration, Academic initiatives, such as the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences course "Urban Agriculture and Social Interactions" and Iran's curricular focus on "Persian Gardens" and "Wisdom and Philosophy of Persian Gardens" underpinnings (Khalilnezhad & Bidokhti, 2019, 295; Khalilnezhad & Tobias, 2016, 3). Despite its 120-year history in the United States (Cushing & Renata, 2015, 16) and three decades in Iran, landscape architecture remains nascent in the latter, with graduate programs in art faculties primarily attracting students from architecture, urban planning, and environmental design backgrounds (Feizi & Asadpour, 2013; Faizi & Razzaghi Asl, 2010).

In Iran, urban agriculture remains under-explored both academically and practically, particularly as a subset of urban green infrastructure (Fardanesh & Rudsari, 2021, 51). This gap is compounded by fragmented research, interdisciplinary overlaps, and marginalization within landscape architecture. To address this, a systematic review of prior work is critical to establishing coherent future directions.

Furthermore, due to varying interpretations of the concept of landscape and the diverse approaches employed, debates have arisen regarding the research interests of landscape architects. Some argue that the primary approach favored by landscape architects is the 'landscape approach,' they sometimes categorize topics into two groups: landscape-related and non-landscape-related, considering topics with a landscape approach as the domain of landscape architecture. However, this categorization appears somewhat subjective and requires a more in-depth re-evaluation. Accordingly, the first section of this review examines the various interpretations of the landscape approach, its characteristics, and related topics. Subsequently, through a review of previous research, an analysis of the current state of scholars, and an examination of practical and research examples, this study aims to answer the following questions:

1.What interpretation of the 'landscape approach' can encompass the domain of urban agriculture within the research and practice domains of the field of landscape architecture?

2.What are the determining dimensions of the position of urban agriculture in landscape architecture, and what are the samples of landscape architects' activities in this domain?

Research Background

Limited studies have explored the position of urban agriculture within the research domains of landscape architecture in Iran and other countries. In international research, although urban agriculture has not been explicitly identified as a direct and key domain of interest for landscape architects, an analysis of their focal topics reveals that this concept is embedded within the Subbranchs of the discipline. For instance, Meijering et al. (2015), in a study involving academic and professional experts, identified four research priorities in the executive branch of landscape architecture: "Human Dimensions of Planning and Design," "Green Urban Development," "Built Environments and Infrastructure," and "Global Landscape issues". Within this classification, urban agriculture falls under "Green Urban Development." Similarly, in a study by Cushing & Renata (2015, 35), which highlighted climate change, active living, energy, and health as under-researched topics, urban agriculture was noted for its impact on users' physical activity and health. In another study, Lefkowitz (1991) identified four major challenges for landscape architects: threats to habitats and landscapes due to population growth, urban density, economic growth, and socio-economic inequalities, Urban agriculture, which significantly influences users' livelihoods, was also emphasized. In the only domestic study, Fardanesh and Rudsari (2021, 60) examined the educational and research priorities of three universities offering landscape architecture programs in Tehran. They found that urban agriculture did

not hold a prominent position in their curricula or research agendas.

These studies indicate a lack of consensus in defining the research and practice domains and priorities of landscape architecture globally. The data sources for the above research include the opinions of academics and professionals, as well as previous studies in the form of papers, books, and theses. Differences in methodology, geographical scope, timeframes, and data sources have led to diverse and sometimes contradictory results. Addressing these discrepancies not only guides future research and practice but also facilitates the identification of overlooked domains in the research and practice of this discipline.

Theoretical Foundations

Academic disciplines emerge and evolve in response to societal needs. The research and practical topics of interest within each discipline depend on its nature, objectives, and evolutionary trajectory. As mentioned in the research background, domains of interest in landscape architecture have been explored by researchers such as Meijering et al. (2015) Cushing & Renata (2015), Lefkowitz (1991), and Fardanesh & Roudsari, (2021). According to Deming and Swaffield (2011), the body of knowledge in this field includes history, human-environment relationships, sustainability-based assessment, ecology and ecological planning, theoretical foundations of design, research and educational methods, urban landscape design, urban infrastructure, construction and implementation methods, landscape planning, site engineering, vegetation knowledge, professional regulations, and documentation, values and ethics, and communication technologies (Deming & Swaffield, 2011, 25). However, due to its multidimensional nature (Zeunert, 2018, 174), urban agriculture does not exclusively fall under any of these Subbranchs and overlaps with several areas. Therefore, there is a need to situate this domain within a more comprehensive theoretical framework. In this regard, dual classifications such as systematic-professional (Adib, 2012, 58), research-practice, and theoretical-practical can be useful. Mautz and Sharaf (1961) emphasized the intrinsic connection between theoretical frameworks and practical methods, viewing them as two sides of the same coin for analyzing epistemic domains. This approach has been applied in landscape studies by other researchers (Mautz & Sharaf, 1961, 75; Asadian Zargar et al., 2023, 48; Masnavi et al., 2021, 24). Inspired by this perspective, this paper adopts an academic-operational framework to analyze the position of urban agriculture in landscape architecture. This choice is justified by the dynamic and cyclical nature of urban agriculture, which first emerges in response to specific social, economic, and environmental conditions, then transforms into knowledge through research, and finally completes the "theory-practice" cycle through feedback from implementation. Accordingly, the position of urban agriculture is examined in two broad contexts:

1.**Academic and research context:** Includes written resources (books, papers, theses, specialized journals), academic institutions, research projects, scholars, and scholarly communities.

2.**Practical and professional context:** Includes implemented projects, governmental and private institutions, specialized consultants, and field experiences.

Research Method

This study investigates the status and position of urban agriculture within the field of landscape architecture, focusing on both academic and practical contexts. For this purpose, a diverse range of research sources were utilized, including papers (from databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, and Scientific Information Database) books (from the website of the National Library and Archives of the I.R.Iran, websites of reputable Iranian and international publishers, Genesis Library, Amazon online bookstore, and Google Books), theses (Iran treasure of Scientific and Technical Information (Ganj in Farsi), thesis sections of Iranian university libraries, Open Access Theses and Dissertations (OATD), and The Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD), and research reports. Additionally, sources have been collected from the websites of Iranian and international universities (landscape architecture departments and related fields), academic social networks (ResearchGate, Academia, and LinkedIn), professional organizations (such as the International Federation of Landscape Architects(IFLA), the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Iranian Society Of Landscape Professionals (ISLAP), and Iranian Scientific Association for Landscape (ISAL), as well as Iranian and international organizations, including municipalities and Research Center on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF).

This study investigated papers, books, theses, researchers, research institutions, contracting companies, consulting firms, and specialized scientific journals related to landscape architecture and urban agriculture. The source selection process was performed in two phases: first, identifying sources related to urban agriculture, and second, evaluating whether these sources were produced by landscape architects. For paper searches, keywords related to urban agriculture in landscape architecture, such as "Urban agriculture," "Edible landscape," and "Productive landscape" were used. To locate books, theses, and research reports, additional keywords such as "Urban farming," "Urban garden," "Agricultural Park," "Agropark," "Community garden," and "Edible park" were employed. In this study, combinations of keywords were searched in the titles, abstracts, and keyword sections of papers within the databases. In some cases, direct searches were conducted in the

thesis sections of selective universities' landscape architecture departments.

To determine research and practices conducted by landscape architects in the domain of urban agriculture, the academic background and institutional affiliation of the authors were examined. Additionally, the research interests of landscape architecture scholars, as reflected in their Google Scholar profiles, were reviewed for their relevance to urban agriculture. Furthermore, the profiles of faculty members in landscape architecture departments offering master's and doctoral programs were reviewed to identify related research. Given the large number of papers found, the presence of keywords such as "Edible landscape" and "Productive landscape" in paper titles was considered an indicator of research conducted by landscape architects. Finally, all collected sources were imported and categorized using EndNote software.

Results

•Urban agriculture and landscape approaches

To identify the relationship between landscape approaches and urban agriculture, it is essential to examine the definitions and characteristics of these approaches. Although there is no single definition of landscape approaches among researchers, there is a consensus that these approaches aim to enhance land use, governance, and decision-making processes while aligning environmental and developmental objectives at various scales. Reed et al. (2016) define the landscape approach as a framework for integrating policies and operational actions in multifunctional land use within a given area, ensuring fair and sustainable land use while strengthening strategies for climate adaptation and mitigation (Erbaugh & Agrawal, 2017, 4453; Reed et al., 2016, 2544). Masnavi et al. (2021) argue that the landscape approach emerges from the practical application of conceptual frameworks and landscape management methods, emphasizing that there is no singular, fixed landscape approach (Masnavi et al., 2021, 30-31).

Landscape approaches have emerged as comprehensive tools for managing increasing pressures on natural resources (land, water, and ecosystems) and meeting the needs of present and future generations. Simultaneously facilitating developmental and conservation objectives, these approaches provide a process for guiding landscape transformations toward a desirable future. However, this broad scope of interactions introduces greater complexity, conflicting interests, and the need for balancing multiple goals (Sayer et al., 2013, 8352). These approaches are mainly associated with nature conservation, sustainable development, integrated natural resource management, land use planning, socio-ecological systems, and climate change (Arts et al., 2017, 442). Additionally, they have gained attention from researchers, policymakers, and communities as a means of addressing conflicts between food production, environmental protection, and biodiversity conservation in productive agricultural landscapes (Sayer et al., 2017; Reed et al., 2016, 467). These approaches are a potential mechanism for balancing sustainable development goals at national, regional, and global levels, including climate resilience, food security, and biodiversity conservation.

Compared to sectoral and traditional approaches, landscape approaches emphasize a shift from project-based, unilateral, top-down actions to process-oriented, participatory, and long-term activities. These approaches place people at the centre of decision-making, addressing issues of representation, power dynamics, rights, and access to resources. They also facilitate connections between sectors and scales that have traditionally operated independently or even in conflict (Reed et al., 2020, 4). The fundamental assumption of landscape approaches is that a balance and alignment can be created between local and global interests, short-term and long-term benefits, and public and private interests (Roderick & Chavez-Tafur, 2014).

Reviews indicate two general perspectives on the concept of the landscape approaches with landscape characteristics. Some research views the landscape approach as a holistic framework for addressing specific features such as visual aesthetics, functionality, culture, and user-centricity. This perspective is mainly applied in landscape architecture and is used to solve issues related to urban landscapes, landscape urbanism, and urban restoration. Scholars in this field define a comprehensive landscape approach that encompasses physical, meaning, objective, and subjective dimensions (Asadafrooz et al., 2020, 57; Alehashemi et al., 2017, 10; Dariush et al., 2020, 36; Zandieh & Goodarzian, 2014, 61).

Another group of research, instead of emphasizing a single approach, identifies a set of approaches with shared

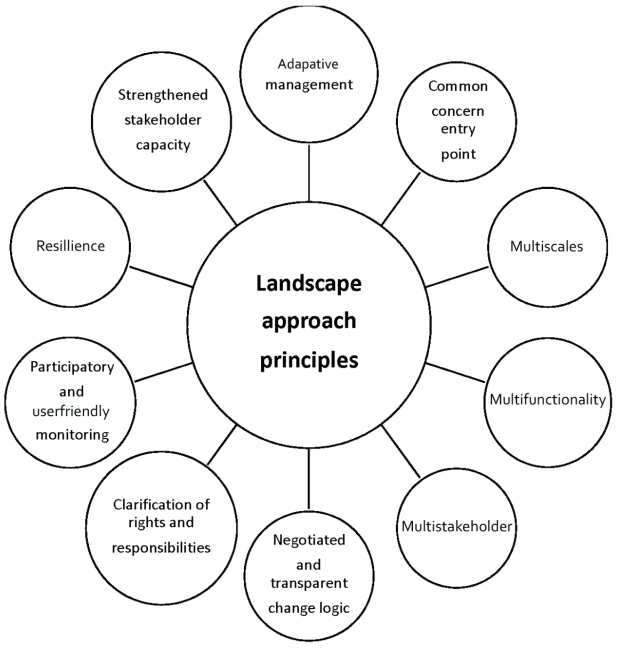

Fig. 1. The ten principles for a landscape approach. Source: Sayer et el, 2013, 8349.

characteristics that fall under the umbrella of landscape approaches. Researchers have proposed 80 different terms, many of which are synonymous with or overlap with the landscape approach (Scherr et al., 2013, 4). Sayer et al. (2013, 8349) proposed ten principles to guide landscape approaches (Fig. 1). Additionally, Freeman et al. (2015) classified landscape approaches into three groups: scale-based landscape approaches, sectoral landscape approaches, and integrated landscape approaches. They identified three different framings for implementing these approaches: conceptual framework, principles, and process. The integrated landscape approach was considered the most comprehensive, and five key principles for guiding it are proposed: complexity, multifunctionality, participation, interdisciplinarity, and sustainability.

Landscape approaches have been applied in various fields, including sustainable forest management, integrated natural resource management, and land use planning (Reed et al., 2016, 2542). Some studies have focused on typologies of landscape approaches. For example, Weatherley-Singh & Gupta (2017), in a study on forests, identified three types of landscape approaches: social, political, and environmental. Similarly, Atha & Yip (2016, 30) examined historical landscapes and identified the social landscape approach as a means of understanding how human-nature interactions shape cultural landscapes. A comparison of Singh and Gupta's classification with the dimensions of sustainable development suggests that landscape approaches are influenced by sustainability considerations. Although the integrated landscape approach is considered the most suitable framework for sustainable development, due to time and financial constraints in research, studies often focus on one or two dimensions of sustainability, such as ecological, social, economic, or socio-ecological landscape approaches. Urban agriculture within urban landscapes has also been recognized as a tool for sustainable urban development (Lovell, 2010; Mougeot, 2006, 10). This approach strengthens the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of urban green spaces, contributing to their overall sustainability (Zeunert et al., 2014, 932; Huan et al., 2024, 2). This aligns precisely with the expectations of an integrated landscape approach.

•Academic and research samples (the position of urban agriculture in the scientific and research context of landscape architecture)

- Research papers written by landscape architects

The findings of academic research are usually published as scientific papers. Identifying papers in a shared research domain can indicate the level of interest and attention researchers from different disciplines have to the domain. In this study, keywords related to urban agriculture, including "Urban Agriculture," "Productive Landscape," and "Edible Landscape," were searched in the title, abstract, keywords, and anywhere in the papers in Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. The results revealed numerous papers. A summary of these findings is presented in Table 2. Analysis of this table indicates that the number of papers addressing the concept of "Urban Agriculture" significantly exceeds those discussing similar concepts such as "productive landscape (or fruitful landscape)" and "Edible Landscape." The emergence of these concepts in academic publications reflects a growing interest among landscape architects in integrating agriculture into urban environments. Additionally, searching for the Persian equivalents of these terms (urban agriculture, productive landscape, and edible landscape) in the titles of Persian-language papers in Google Scholar showed that the number of published papers in these areas was 63, 0, 2, and 3, respectively. Compared to English-language papers, these numbers are significantly lower, indicating a lack of attention from Iranian researchers in this domain.

- Books authored by landscape architects

Academic books play a crucial role in expanding and disseminating knowledge. To identify books published in the domain of urban agriculture, searches were conducted in Google Books, Library Genesis, Amazon, and Springer. The search results yielded a substantial number of books. However, upon review, experts and researchers in landscape architecture and related disciplines, such as sustainable architecture,

Table 2. Number of papers and sources retrieved in scopus, web of science, and google scholar databases. Source: Authors.

Database name		Scopus			Web of science			Google scholar		
Search location		Anywhere in the sources	In the title, abstract, and keywords of the sources	In the title of the sources	Anywhere in the sources	In the title, abstract, and keywords of the sources	In the title of the sources	Anywhere in the sources	In the title, abstract, and keywords of the sources	In the title of the sources
Keywords	Urban agriculture	27268	5099	1670	4240	3905	1377	195000	It is not possible to search in these sections.	10300
	Productive landscape	798	281	47	101	101	21	5910		149
	Edible landscape	612	76	31	44	44	17	2230		130

Table 3. Books written on urban agriculture by landscape architects and architects with a sustainability orientation. Source: Authors.

Book title	Year	References	Main content
Farmscape, the design of productive landscapes	2020	(Lickwar & Thoren, 2020) Landscape Architectures	Elucidate the significance of integrating agriculture into landscape design as a sustainable and innovative approach. The Historical Intersection of Agriculture and Landscape Architecture. Define agriculture as a design act. Provide numerous international case studies to demonstrate the success of this integration.
Routledge handbook of landscape and food	2018	(Zeunert &Waterman,2018) Landscape Architectures and Editors	This reference book aims to identify and analyze the complex relationships between food and landscape in various cultural, economic, and social contexts. It has been written by 50 authors from diverse backgrounds.
Playing/field urban agriculture: ecological education and practice base design	2015	(Bohn & Ritzmann, 2015) Sustainable Architects & Editors	Presenting various aspects of urban agriculture and its impacts on communities and environmental education, providing solutions for implementing these concepts in daily life, and examining a project undertaken by the Department of Urban and Nutrition at the Technical University of Berlin
Second nature urban agriculture- designing productive cities	2014	(Viljoen & Bohn, 2014) Sustainable Architects	An update from the book 'Continuous Productive Urban Landscape' by its authors, developing and contextualizing the CPUL theory, and proposing actions for its implementation. It emphasizes the importance of integrating agriculture into urban planning and the urban living environment, with examples from Germany, England, and the United States.
Designing urban agriculture: a complete guide to the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and management of edible landscapes	2013	(Philips, 2013) Landscape Architecture	Presenting the intersection of urban agriculture, ecology, landscape architecture, and sociology. Exploring the various dimensions of the edible landscape, its types, design processes, and integrated management process, with numerous case studies.
Carrot city: creating places for urban agriculture	2011	(Gorgolewski et al., 2011) Sustainable Architects & Architect	Examining the contemporary trends in urban agriculture compared to the past, arguing that urban agriculture responds to global challenges such as climate change, economic inequality, and healthy food access. Introducing small to medium-scale examples that can enhance urban resilience
Continuous productive urban landscapes: designing urban agriculture for sustainable cities	2005	(Viljoen et al., 2005) Sustainable Architects	Integrating urban agriculture with urban landscape planning and activating productive landscapes globally using landscape architecture and urban planning tools. Emphasizing the need for a sustainable approach in urban design and planning, citing real-world examples.

authored a limited number of these books. A list of these books is provided in Table 3. In contrast, Persian-language books on urban agriculture are far more limited, with only four titles identified. These include two authored books (Fundamentals of Urban Agriculture and Urban Agriculture: Its Development and Extension) and two translated books (Edible Cities and Designing Urban Agriculture). Notably, these books were authored or translated by researchers from disciplines other than landscape architecture.

-Graduate theses on urban agriculture

Graduate theses serve as a key indicator of academic engagement with urban agriculture in landscape architecture. To identify Iranian graduate theses related to this domain, the Persian equivalent of the keywords "urban agriculture," "edible landscape," and "productive landscape" were searched in the Iran Treasure of Scientific and Technical Information (Ganj in Farsi). Findings revealed 73 graduate theses related to urban agriculture in Iran, distributed across various academic disciplines, 12 theses in landscape architecture, 13 in architecture, 15 in urban planning and design, 11 in agricultural extension and education, 7 in environmental design, 5 in landscape engineering and horticulture, 5 in geography (climatology, urban, and rural planning), and 5 in agroecology and environmental sciences. These findings indicate that landscape architecture students conducted 16% of Iranian graduate theses on urban agriculture (Fig. 2).

The earliest thesis in this domain dates back to 2011. Moreover, 7 of these theses were at the PhD level, while 66 were master's theses. To assess international graduate theses, an extensive search was conducted across multiple databases. A final search was performed in the Open Access Theses and Dissertations (OATD) database using the keywords "Urban Agriculture," "Edible Landscape," and "Productive Landscape" in thesis titles, focusing on English-language theses published since 2011. The extracted data was imported into EndNote software, and any missing information was supplemented through additional

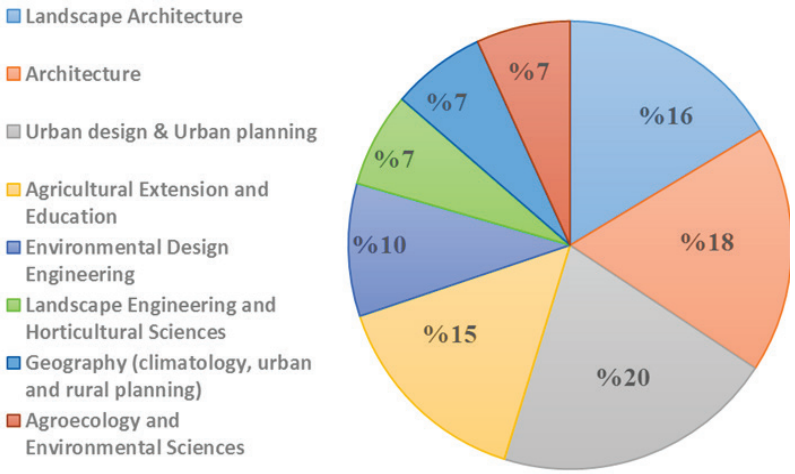

Fig. 2. Percentage of theses on urban agriculture in various fields of study at iranian universities. Source: Authors.

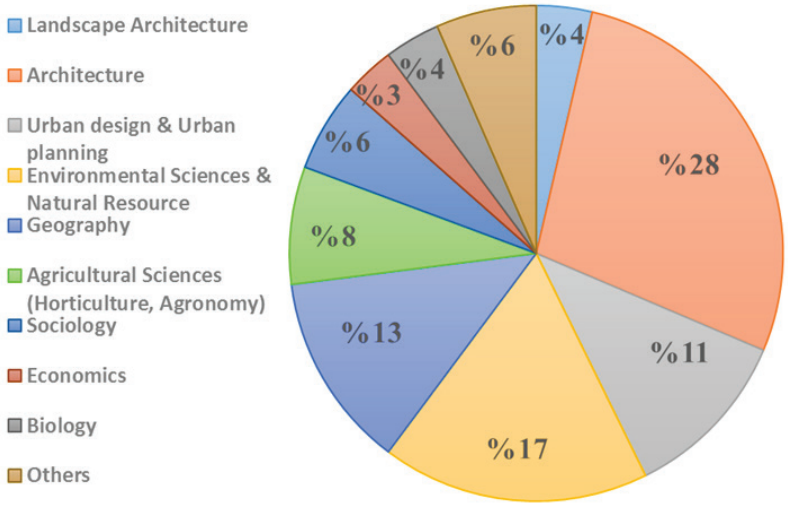

Fig. 3. Percentage of theses on the topic of urban agriculture in various fields of study at foreign universities in the open access theses and dissertations (OATD). Source: Authors.

searches. Then, the theses were categorized based on academic discipline. Out of 274 international theses on urban agriculture found in these databases, 10 were in landscape architecture, 76 in architecture, 31 in urban planning and the rest were in the fields of environment and natural resources, geography, agriculture, sociology, economics, and biology and other fields (Fig. 3). These results indicate that students in design-related disciplines, including landscape architecture, architecture, and urbanism, conducted 43% of the analyzed theses, with architecture having the highest share. Furthermore, 72 of the identified international theses were at the PhD level. The contribution of landscape architecture to the total number of international theses on urban agriculture was only 4%, reflecting its relatively low presence in global theses related to this domain.

-Academic researchers in landscape architecture focusing on urban agriculture

A review of researchers who have designated "urban agriculture" as their research interest in Google Scholar identified several scholars specializing in landscape architecture. The most important of these researchers include Laura Lawson, Thru Threde, Anita Toth, Elizabeth Brabec, Shannon Davis, Joshua Zeunert, and Tim Waterman. Detailed information about these researchers is provided in Table 4. The selection criteria for these researchers were based on their academic affiliation in landscape architecture departments, their research contributions to urban agriculture and food systems, their distinguished research status, and their educational background in landscape architecture. Additionally, some researchers in landscape architecture who actively Research and teaching urban agriculture may not appear in Google Scholar. For example, Frank Lohrberg from RWTH Aachen University does not have a Google Scholar profile but has conducted significant research and teaching in urban agriculture. In Iran, only a few academic researchers in landscape architecture have focused their studies on urban agriculture.

Table 4. Landscape architecture scholars with urban agriculture interests in google scholar. Source: Authors.

Scholar name	University	Country	Number of researches	Cited by	Description
Laura Lawson	Rutgers university new jersey	USA	61	2417	Professor of Landscape Architecture at Rutgers University with executive responsibilities related to their field of expertise. Author of numerous articles and books on urban agriculture and community gardens in the United States. Holds a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture and a PhD in Environmental Planning.
Toru Terada	University of Tokyo	Japan	125	605	Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Urban and Landscape Planning, with a research focus on urban agriculture, community gardens urban parks, and open Spaces. Holds a Master's degree in Urban Planning and a PhD in Urban Forestry.
Attila Tóth	Slovak university of agriculture in Nitra	Slovakia	197	665	Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, focusing on research in green infrastructure and its ecosystem services, urban agriculture, and cultural landscapes across multiple countries. Holds a doctoral degree in Landscape Architecture and is Chair and Board Member of the LE:NOTRE Institute and delegate in the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools (ECLAS).
Frank Lohrberg	RWTH Aachen University	Germany	117	-	Professor of Landscape Architecture, author of numerous books and articles, recipient of multiple awards, and participant in international projects such as the European Urban Agriculture Project. Maintains an office in Stuttgart, PhD Thesis: "Urban Agriculture in City and Open Space Planning".
Shannon Davis	Lincoln university	New Zealand	46	98	Senior Lecturer in Landscape Architecture, specializing in urban agriculture, edible landscapes, landscape planning and assessment. Practical experience in edible and productive landscape centres. Current research focuses on agroecology and the integration of productive uses in residential areas. Holds a PhD in Landscape Architecture.
Elizabeth Brabec	University of Massachusetts Amherst	USA	72	2681	Professor of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, with research focused on culture, heritage, land, and their interactions within sustainable communities. Specifically, their research explores the role of land and its organization in shaping communities, particularly in the context of urban agriculture and food systems. She is a member of ISCCL and the ICOMOS Climate Change and Cultural Heritage Working Group.
Joshua Zeunert	UNSW Sydney	Australia	50	356	Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, specializing in regenerative landscapes and food systems. Author of numerous publications, including books on Sydney's Food Landscapes, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Sustainability. Editor of the 'Routledge Handbook of Landscape and Food' in collaboration with Tim Waterman. Recipient of multiple academic and professional awards.
Tim Waterman	University college London	England	94	562	Professor of Landscape Theory, Serving as the Director of Interdisciplinary Programs at the Bartlett School of Architecture and holding several other positions. He is the Co-editor of the 'Routledge Handbook of Landscape and Food' and author of 'Basics Landscape Architecture,' as well as numerous other publications on landscape architecture.

-Academic journals in landscape architecture featuring special issues on urban agriculture

Reputable scientific journals in some of their issues dedicate special issues to important domains. Some reputable scientific journals have dedicated special issues to urban agriculture, highlighting its growing importance in landscape architecture. Examples of such special issues include "Landscapes" (published by the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects), Issue 17, 2015, "Open House International" (published by Emerald), Issue 34, 2020; and "Urban Planning and Landscape" (published by Elsevier), Issue 170, 2018. The publication of these special issues underscores the significance of urban agriculture in landscape architecture and the growing interest of professionals in this domain at the international level. In

Iran, however, landscape architecture journals are limited, and only a few papers have been published on urban agriculture.

-Research centers on urban agriculture in landscape architecture departments

Some research centers focus entirely or partially on urban agriculture projects and related concepts, often led by landscape architects. Notable examples include the Centre of Excellence Future Productive Landscapes at Lincoln University, the Institute of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, the City and Nutrition Group at the Technical University of Berlin, and the Institute of Landscape Architecture at RWTH Aachen University. In Iran, no landscape architecture research center specifically
dedicated to urban agriculture was identified.

-Specialized journals on urban agriculture featuring papers by

landscape architects Urban agriculture has a few specialized journals. Based on the conducted searches, one of the most prominent is the Urban Agriculture magazine, published by the Research Center for Urban Agriculture and Food Security in the Netherlands. This journal includes several articles authored by landscape architects. However, in Iran, no specialized journal is exclusively dedicated to urban agriculture.

• •Practical and Professional samples (the position of urban agriculture in the practical and professional context of landscape architecture)

- -Urban agriculture in professional landscape architecture institutions

One of the key indicators in determining the position of a field of knowledge within a specialized discipline is its presence and impact on professional institutional activities, including conferences, competitions, and scientific and educational publications. A review of professional institutions in landscape architecture reveals that urban agriculture, as an emerging domain, has acquired a prominent position in their activities.

For example, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA),
with 126 years of history and more than 15,000 members, is considered one of the most significant professional associations in landscape
architecture. This association has pursued numerous activities in urban agriculture, including organizing conferences, specialized competitions, and publishing scientific materials related to this domain. Notable examples of successful urban agriculture projects that have won awards in ASLA competitions include Lafayette Greens, the Green Roof at Gary Comer Youth Center, and Seattle'sProductive Neighborhoods. Additionally, in ASLA's 2019 annual conference in San Diego, urban agriculture was introduced as one of the main panels and was recognized as an integral part of landscape architecture.

Another important professional institution in this field is the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA). This federation has five
scientific committees, one of which is the Agricultural Landscape Committee. In line with this, in September 2021, IFLA, in collaboration with the Iranian Scientific Association for Landscape, held a specialized
webinar on urban agriculture, demonstrating the significance of this topic on the agenda of international landscape architecture institutions.

Moreover, at the Food and the City Symposium in 2012, organized by Harvard University's Dumbarton Oaks Institute, a significant portion of the participants, who were landscape architects, examined the reasons behind the increasing importance and popularity of urban agriculture among the public and urban designers. At this symposium, urban agriculture was introduced as an effective tool for improving urban quality of life (Imbert, 2015).

-Landscape architecture consulting and contracting firms with urban agriculture services

Another critical indicator in determining the status of a domain of knowledge within a discipline is the emergence and expansion of specialized and operational activities related to that domain among specialized consultants and contractors in the discipline. Studies indicate that companies active in urban agriculture are mainly located in the United States. Some of the prominent firms engaged in urban agriculture design and implementation include HB Lanarc, Grow Studio (EOA), Urban Edge Studio, Crop Up, April Philips Design Works, Kenneth Weikal Landscape Architecture, Nelson Byrd Woltz, and BASE Landscape. In Iran, most related companies are primarily engaged in the sale of fruit-bearing saplings and non-edible urban green space services, rather than explicitly focusing on urban agriculture. However, some Iranian consulting engineers have implemented a limited number of small and medium-scale urban agriculture projects, signaling a gradual emergence of this trend in Iran.

-National and international research projects conducted by landscape architects

Another important indicator in determining the status of a domain of knowledge in a specialized discipline is the presence of its experts and researchers in national and international projects related to that domain. Several large-scale research projects in urban agriculture, primarily conducted in European countries, have involved the participation of landscape architects. Some of these projects include 1.Urban Agriculture Europe, led by Frank Lohrberg, a German landscape architect. This project was managed under the COST Research Network and was limited to Europe. 2."Cultivating Public Spaces: Urban Agriculture as a Basis for Human Flourishing and Sustainability Transition in Norwegian Cities," led by Beata Sirowy, a Norwegian landscape architect. This project was conducted in Norway at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU). 3.The International "Edible Cities Network (EdiCitNet)"

Project, funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 program. This project aims to implement Edible City Solutions (ECS) and integrate them institutionally, striving to make cities worldwide better places to live. The Landscape Architecture Institute at RWTH Aachen University in Germany, under the leadership of Frank Lohrberg, has been involved in this initiative. The project consists of multiple sub-projects and is being executed with the participation of 30 universities, mainly from Europe. In addition, 4-The "Productive Urban Landscapes" Project, which later evolved into the "Continuous
Productive Urban Landscape (CPUL)" concept. This project was developed by two sustainable architecture researchers, Viljoen and Bohn, and has been incorporated into research and practical projects
across Europe. The main goal of this initiative is to develop a comprehensive, productive urban landscape plan for eight international
European cities (Viljoen & Bohn, 2014; Viljoen & Howe, 2012).

In Iran, a limited number of urban-scale urban agriculture projects have been implemented. These projects are mostly small-scale and intra-urban or are part of larger urban development initiatives. Notable examples include: Najvan Park in Isfahan (managed by Isfahan Municipality), A section of Chel-Baze Park in Mashhad, and Family Farms in several urban parks in Tehran, These examples reflect Iran's initial steps in incorporating urban agriculture into urban landscape planning, yet there remains a significant potential for further expansion.

Discussion

In response to the first research question, findings indicate that urban agriculture, as an interdisciplinary domain, has attracted the attention of various academic disciplines. Each discipline, based on its responsibilities, investigates and practices aspects of this domain that align with its needs. Therefore, research and practical efforts conducted by other disciplines in urban agriculture cannot replace the research and actions of landscape architects. This is particularly crucial in Iran, where both the field of landscape architecture and the concept of urban agriculture from a landscape approach are relatively new. Thus, it is essential to give this domain greater attention.

Moreover, as previously mentioned, urban agriculture in Global North countries has primarily been pursued to improve environmental and social conditions. The literature, research cases, and pilot projects conducted by landscape architects in this domain have predominantly been developed within this context. Additionally, the formation of the landscape architecture discipline has occurred in Global North countries. Given Iran's position in the Global South, where the goals of urban agriculture differ from those of the Global North, and considering the significant influence of Northern countries in shaping the landscape architecture discipline in Iran, it is necessary to consider the goals of both contexts to establish an optimal position for urban agriculture in Iran's landscape architecture field. This means that both environmental and social objectives, as well as goals related to poverty reduction, food security, and gender inequality in the economy, must be taken into account. Accordingly, the landscape approach to urban agriculture in Iran should integrate all dimensions of sustainable development and align with the ten principles proposed by Sayer et al. (2013).

Regarding the second research question, as previously discussed, urban agriculture has been examined in two dimensions: research and practice. Numerous case studies, particularly from the Global North, have been identified for each dimension. These dimensions were also analyzed in Iran, where they appear to be significantly weaker compared to international dimensions. Among these two aspects, the research dimension in Iran has received relatively more attention than the practical aspect. Most research conducted by landscape architects in Iran has been in the form of academic papers and theses. One of the main reasons for the weakness in practical implementation in Iran is the lack of effective collaboration between academia and industry. Here, "industry" refers to both public and private sectors involved in urban agriculture implementation. In other words, the urban agriculture discourse in Iran remains largely confined to academic research, rather than being translated into practical applications.

Conclusion

Urban agriculture is a historically significant topic that has recently regained attention. As an emerging discipline, landscape architecture is tasked with addressing challenges related to urban development, human health, population growth, and socio-economic inequalities. Therefore, it can play a crucial role in the research, development, and practical implementation of urban agriculture. Given this, investigating its position within this field is of particular importance.

The objective of this study is to determine the position of urban agriculture within landscape architecture and to provide guidance for research and practice in this domain. The significance of this study lies because, despite the historical role of agriculture in Iran, urban agriculture has not yet been systematically recognized within the profession and discipline of landscape architecture. By introducing the position of urban agriculture in landscape architecture, along with key research sources, leading scholars, and major practical projects, this paper assists interested researchers develop a more comprehensive perspective and enhance the quality of future research in this domain. This contributes to time and cost efficiency in future research efforts.

Additionally, research and practice in urban agriculture have been recognized as a landscape approach that contributes to the sustainability of urban green spaces, a point emphasized by Huan et al. (2024, 10).

A comparison of national and international findings of this paper reveals that, in Iran, landscape architects have engaged in limited activities in urban agriculture research, mainly as academic papers and theses. This highlights the weak position of urban agriculture in landscape architecture in Iran, a conclusion supported by Fardanesh and Rudsari (2021, 51). Several factors contribute to this weak position, including The relatively recent establishment of landscape architecture as a discipline in Iran and the academic placement of the field in some other countries where it is housed within agricultural faculty, in Iran, it is primarily associated with faculty of art, The level of interest to this domain among faculty members, The educational backgrounds of students, The job market landscape, The extent of governmental and private sector engagement with this issue. Another significant challenge affecting the position of urban agriculture in Iran, and consequently its position in landscape architecture, is the absence of a dedicated regulatory organization. Instead, this topic is governed by multiple institutions, primarily under the Ministry of Agriculture-Jihad and the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development.

Further analysis of Iranian research papers and theses in this domain indicates that most studies conducted in landscape architecture and related disciplines-including the papers of Rahnama & Roosta (2013); Ghafelebashi et al. (2022); Pourmohammadi & Ghorbani (2004); and Rafieian et al. (2018) as well as dissertations by Mohammad Pour (2017); Khodadi Samiazadeh (2019); Emamjomeh (2021); Shamshiri (2012); Hazrat Fath Abadi (2016); Foroughi (2017); Ahmadi (2018); Khalili (2018); and Jadidiyan (2012) have primarily focused on the conservation and restoration of existing urban agricultural lands and private gardens. However, the continuous decline in these lands indicates that such efforts have not been sufficiently effective. The main reasons for this decline include the increasing value of urban land, the tendency to change land use, and the lack of governmental support. Additionally, public urban agriculture pilot projects, such as family farms in Tehran's urban parks, have shown low success due to challenges such as water scarcity, security concerns, and the need for specialized maintenance. Consequently, this study underscores the necessity for greater integration of urban agriculture within landscape architecture in Iran, with an emphasis on both research and practical implementation to address current challenges and enhance urban sustainability.

To enhance the position of urban agriculture in Iran, particularly within the field of landscape architecture, some recommendations are proposed. These include supporting research and practical projects for researchers, professionals, and students interested in urban agriculture, providing incentives for students engaged in research on urban agriculture, organizing seminars and conferences to generate interest and motivation among students, researchers, and government organizations, incorporating urban agriculture as a dedicated course unit or a section of a course, developing regulations, guidelines, and service descriptions for implementing agriculture in public, semi-public, and private urban spaces, adding an urban agriculture subcategory to the ranking system of consulting engineering firms in the fields of urban planning, architecture, or agricultural studies, as well as contracting companies. This study faced certain limitations, including the possibility of missing relevant information because of searches conducted only in Persian and English databases, the diversity of keywords, and the vast range of available sources. Future researchers may choose to narrow their scope to non-English sources from East Asia and Europe. Additionally, future studies could address the challenge of source diversity by focusing their searches on specific categories, such as journal papers, books, theses, research reports, or a combination thereof.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that no conflicts of interest exist in conducting this research.

Endnotes

* This article extracted from Ph.D thesis of "Reza Bagheri" titled "Development of urban agriculture in public urban green spaces with the approach of promoting public participation (Case study: Tehran)" that under supervision of Dr. "Kianoush Suzanchi" and consultation of Dr. "Mojtaba Rafieian" which has been done at Department of Architecture, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran.

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